



James M. Durant III, Esq.

Mr. Durant is a Career Senior Executive Service member serving as Chief Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science—Chicago. In this capacity, he leads a staff of lawyers and administrative professionals providing legal services to seven of the ten US National Laboratories across the United States. Their focus is high physics energy research and technical commercial transfer through Management and Operation contracting. He also leads a DOE Intellectual Property Law (IPL) Division that is the DOE's Center of Excellence for IPL as well as the DOE Field Center of Excellence for FOIA and Privacy law.

Prior to joining DOE, Mr. Durant served 26 years in the US Air Force as a Judge Advocate rising to the rank of Colonel (O-6). He served as a Military Trial Counsel, a Special Assistant US Attorney and an International Commissioner for War Claims Trials in Bosnia. In the area of law practice management, he led nine legal offices across US and internationally--Italy, Bosnia, Croatia, and the UK. His last duty station was in the United Kingdom, where he served as the Director of Legal Services. Mr. Durant also served as the Deputy Department Head and Professor of Law at the United States Air Force Academy.

He has deployed in service to OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2009, he served in the US State Department, Verification Compliance and Implementation Bureau as the Strategic Issues Officer. Mr. Durant is on the Board of Directors for the Senior Executives Association (SEA) and he chairs the SEA's Membership Board. He previously served as a Delegate to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates for seven years. He is also a former council member of the ABA Government and Public Sector Law Division and the ABA Solo Small Firm General Practice Division, which he chaired in 2009. In 2019, Mr. Durant was elected to the ABA Board of Governors for a three-year term. He is a graduate of Howard University where he earned his BA and JD. Mr. Durant is admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.